

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 09218 050939Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00
SP-02 OC-06 CTME-00 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00
SY-05 FAA-00 WRDE-00 MCT-01 SCS-06 CA-01 SSO-00
INRE-00 /092 W

-----055172 050944Z /14

O R 050915Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1056
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 9218

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, MY
SUBJECT: HIJACKING AND CRASH OF MAS FLIGHT 653

REFS: A) KUALA LUMPUR 9173 (NOTAL); B) TOKYO 18601 (NOTAL)

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL A, EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THAT MALAYSIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DATUK ALI AHMAD WAS ON BOARD MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM (MAS) FLIGHT 653 THAT WAS HIJACKED AND SUBSEQUENTLY CRASHED. ALSO ON BOARD THE PLANE WAS CUBAN AMBASSADOR MARIO GARCIA INCHAUTESGUI MENTIONED IN REFTEL B. TOTAL PASSENGERS ON BOARD THE PLANE WERE 93 WITH A CREW OF SEVEN. MAS HAS CONFIRMED THAT THERE ARE NO SURVIVORS.

2. ACCORDING TO EARLY NEWSPAPER REPORTS THE PLANE WAS HIJACKED BY JAPANESE RED ARMY (JRA) ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, THE PASSENGER MANIFEST OF THE PLANE ONLY LISTS ONE JAPANESE PASSENGER WHO IS A BUSINESSMAN KNOWN TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY WHICH THINKS IT
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DOUBTFUL THAT HE HAD ANY JRA CONTACTS. LATER NEWS ARTICLES HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE JRA. THE GOM HAS SO FAR REMAINED SILENT CONCERNING THE IDENTITY OF THE HIJACKERS BUT MAS HAS DENIED EARLIER STATEMENTS OF JRA INVOLVEMENT IN THE HIJACKING.

3. ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS REPORTS, THE PLANE EXPLODED PRIOR TO CRASHING. THERE WAS APPARENTLY A SECOND EXPLOSION WHEN THE

PLANE CRASHED. IT IS SPECULATED THAT THE FIRST EXPLOSION MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY EXPLOSIVES CARRIED ON BOARD THE PLANE BY THE HIJACKERS. DEBRIS FROM THE CRASH IS QUITE SCATTERED AND NEITHER FLIGHT NOR COCKPIT VOICE RECORDER HAS YET BEEN RECOVERED.

4. THE EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT FIRM INFORMATION ON THE HIJACKING AND CRASH WILL BE SLOW IN DEVELOPING.

5. AMBASSADOR CALLED MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIAH TODAY TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES AND TO OFFER ANY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. ZAKARIAH NOTED HIS THANKS FOR BOTH.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770450-0309
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771294/aaaadbrk.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6add430c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Reference: 77 KUALA LUMPUR 9173, 77 TOKYO 18601
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 363011
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIJACKING AND CRASH OF MAS FLIGHT 653
TAGS: EAIR, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
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